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YOKEFELLOW

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December 2009

LONGSUFFERING (II)

Bobby Liddell

THE USAGE OF “LONGSUFFERING”

I Corinthians 13:4, in the midst of the great chapter on charity (love), reveals that love is longsuffering; that is, patiently enduring. In the church at Corinth, were dissensions, disputing, and divisions. To address the conflicts and restore unity, the brethren needed to know why they should love one another; how they should love one another; and what would be the consequence of their loving (or not loving) one another. In the strife and confusion that characterized the members of the body, there was a real need for patience with one another, slowness to anger, and readiness to forgive. The strongly held feelings that produced the problems experienced at Corinth, now compounded by the injured feelings the problems produced, required that all exercise longsuffering in their relationships, reactions, and responses.

Further provocation would only exacerbate the difficulties. Heated, angry debate and hasty, inaccurate accusation would NOT produce good, mend broken relationships, soothe hurt feelings, reconcile brethren, restore unity, or honor Christ, but would only broaden the chasm of their separation (as they always do).

Thus, they had a need for longsuffering: the ability to express love by being able to bear with one another, to listen instead of always talking, to stop to think, and pray, instead of too quickly reacting, and to extend to others the patient endurance we all need and want, because of lovingly, genuinely seeking the good of the other, and of the body of Christ, and that would result in healing instead of additional injury.

Consider another passage. Imprisoned because of his faithfully serving Jesus, Paul besought the Ephesian brethren that they walk worthy, by exhibiting in their lives lowliness and meekness, and longsuffering, by which they would be able to forbear one another, motivated by love for one another (Eph. 4:1-3). The result would be the unity God desired for them, and that would be a blessing to them. Paul's life was exemplary of the very characteristics he enjoined upon his brethren.

Note that longsuffering requires lowliness and meekness. Haughty, egotistical men are not longsuffering, but sin in their anger and haste to accuse, and unwillingness to forgive. Such men destroy their own brethren (cf. Acts 9:4) by sowing discord and dividing congregations through malicious words and

Continued on page 3

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY: A MUST FOR LEARNING

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

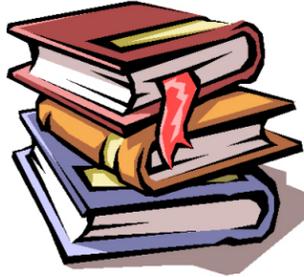
At the Memphis School of Preaching, we are blessed with a magnificent school library. With the help of master librarian Annette Cates' great and good efforts, this “tool” for learning is a tremendous resource not usually found in a school our size. Nearly any biblical or theological subject can be sourced, either from the books on the shelves, the computers, the micro-film, the micro-fiche, the tapes, or reference books. In fact, the Alumni Association just purchased nearly \$10,000.00 worth of materials that place the works in the library on the cutting edge of such places of study.



Continued on page 2

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Many preacher's libraries have been donated to the school and have created a backlog of nearly 50,000 books waiting to be catalogued!

The library building is two stories high and on the second floor there is an archives area, overseen by Dan Cates, that contains numerous treasures and old writings. Students at MSOP can view some rare works of restoration preachers and even see some of their personal effects. (Especially fascinating are the personal mementos of N. B. Hardeman located on the first floor.)

However, just looking at the books and treasures is not what is so important about the library. Nothing teaches a student as well as a fine research effort. Searching for sources and examining the writings of theological "scholars" and biblical exegetes is as good a route for learning as anything else can be. A student is pursuing a topic and absorbing the discipline necessary in proving that the material is factual and documented. Sometimes preachers will say something from the pulpit that is not provable, but when one is aware of how to find the sources for such statements, there is obtained much more confidence in the speaker's material. No student is really a "disciple" until that one is able to do research and to do it well.

Preachers of the gospel preach from a Book. Preachers of the gospel must be voracious readers of books and other materials or they become stagnant in their sermons. At MSOP we try to get the students to understand the huge importance of a library. KM

Remember our Library fund-raising efforts and help if you can. BL

FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

Since the MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING is a major part of the work of the church of Christ, located at 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, in Germantown, Tennessee, all facilities are available for use by the school. (The mailing address for the church is 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, Tennessee, 38125.)

The **school building** is of brick and steel construction. This building is located next to the church building, and covers 20,188 square feet of floor space. In this unit, there are classrooms, offices, supply room, rest rooms, water fountains, a printing room, two large lecture halls, a break room, and a large chapel hall.

A **fellowship hall** has been completed for occupancy by the School of Preaching and church use. It is also of brick, concrete, and steel construction. It contains 15,845 square feet of floor space.

The **auditorium building** covers 21,552 square feet and includes seating for 1,100 including a balcony. The church offices are contained in this building, and there is space for some classrooms.

The **N.B. Hardeman Library** is of brick and steel construction. This two-story facility of 12,000 square feet has rest rooms, office, workroom, checkout area, vault, large display areas, etc.

Four student housing units, set on the back of the fifteen acre property, contain thirty-two, three-bedroom apartments for students.

These structures are well equipped to facilitate all the requirements necessary for good teaching situations. They are constructed so as to be approved by the State. Each unit is properly and adequately ventilated, cooled, and heated. All the facilities meet the needs of the physically challenged. (Adapted from the School Catalog.)

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ever since the Memphis School of Preaching began in 1966, **contributions made at the close of the calendar year have been vital** to its work. MSOP receives no federal or state grants, or other governmental support, and charges no tuition or fees of its students. Instead, the School is supported by the Forest Hill congregation, and by other faithful brothers and sisters, individually and congregationally, who are convinced of the continuing need to train men to preach the Gospel of Christ.

The many hundreds of graduates preaching throughout the world tell us their training at MSOP was the hardest work they ever did, and loved! Equal to more than four years of college in two years (164 semester hours), the course demands that students learn discipline and diligence as they learn the Scriptures and the practical aspects of preaching.

These end-of-year gifts are very helpful because of the needs of students who have not raised all of their living expenses (some are doing without, but are continuing in their studies), January enrollment of new students, anticipated lectureship expenses in March, and catching up with unanticipated expenses involved in the day-to-day operation of the School.

More than four decades of faithful service to the Lord, and to the Cause of Christ, have shown the School is worthy of the support of brethren. **These donations are needed, are fully tax deductible, of course, and they are a Godsend to the work of MSOP.**

Please help if you can.

Longsuffering continued

evil surmising, all the while claiming they are the only faithful ones, and assuring their deceived followers that they are ever on guard for the latest supposed heresy and heretics. Their attitudes are so disagreeable and so distasteful (to those who refuse to be gullible enough to follow them blindly) that they end up meeting with a handful in their own homes, or if they do stay with a church for any length of time, they decimate the congregation by their disagreeable hypocrisy and arrogance. What a difference longsuffering would make! Let us all learn from their ungodly lack of bearing fruit, and be patient with one another; willing to forbear, as taught by the Holy Spirit.

Another of Paul's epistles contains these inspired words.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another; and forgiving one another; if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful (Col. 3:12-15).

Again, note the companions of longsuffering: mercy, kindness, humility, and meekness. Hateful, self-serving men will not patiently endure with others, nor will they be slow to anger. They will not extend mercy, but will seek opportunity to advance themselves, or to avenge themselves, at the cost of others and the church. They ruin peace and rob men of hope. Contrary to such devilish behavior, the result of being longsuffering will be peace ruling in our hearts, and gratitude overflowing in our thoughts, words, and deeds. God's will is that with longsuffering, come forbearance and forgiveness, and above all, love. How the church needs to learn the lesson of longsuffering!

Continued next issue.

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MSOP STUDENTS CONDUCT FOUR GOSPEL CAMPAIGNS Billy Bland

As a part of their training to be Gospel Preachers, the Memphis School of Preaching students participate in door-knocking campaigns twice a year (except once every other year the students go on a restoration trip instead of a campaign). The students are usually divided into four separate groups, or teams, and travel to different destinations in the U.S. This Fall, because of one congregation's cancelling a campaign for financial reasons, students were divided into three groups and traveled to three different locations instead of four.

However, before the regular campaigns, brother Bobby Liddell, Director of the Memphis School of Preaching, suggested to the elders at **Forest Hill** that our students could be used in a local campaign in the Forest Hill area. The elders agreed and scheduled a Gospel Meeting for the dates of September 27-30, with brother **B. J. Clarke** (Dean of Admissions and Instructor at MSOP) as the preacher for the campaign. All the students participated in this campaign effort. The elders placed brother **Matthew Jones** (associate preacher of Forest Hill and MSOP graduate) in charge of the administrative aspects of the work on Forest Hill's part. Brother Jones prepared the materials to be handed out at the doors, as well as planning the follow-up for the home Bible studies and Bible correspondence courses. **The students knocked 11,207 doors, which resulted in 27 Bible studies and 2 baptisms.**

The regular schedule for the other campaigns was for the week of November 1-5, 2009. Brother **Jerry Martin** (Dean of Students and Instructor at MSOP) preached in a campaign in **Gonzales, LA**. Brother **James Eaves** (MSOP graduate), who preaches full-time for the Gonzales church did the work in preparing the local congregation for the campaign. **There were 2,018 doors knocked, which resulted in 32 Bible correspondence courses and 32 personal Bible studies.**

Brother **Garland Elkins** (Dean of Public Relations and Instructor at MSOP) preached in a campaign in **Milledgeville, TN**. Brother **Bill Shannon** (MSOP graduate) preaches for the Lord's church in Milledgeville, TN. Milledgeville is located in a rural area outside of Henderson, TN. Because

of their being located "in the country" houses were fewer in number and spaced out between locations. **In this campaign, there were 945 doors knocked, which resulted in 11 Bible correspondence courses and 3 personal Bible studies.**

The third campaign was in **Goldsboro, NC**. Brother **Lennie Reagan** (MSOP graduate) is the local preacher for the Oak Forest congregation in Goldsboro. **Billy Bland** (Administrative Dean and Instructor at MSOP) preached in this campaign. The theme of this campaign was "You Can Be Sure" (John 6:69), and each sermon was developed around this theme. **There were 2,604 doors knocked, which resulted in 3 personal Bible Studies and 23 Bible correspondence courses** so far (we did not try to set up Bible Correspondence courses, but a course was included in the materials distributed).

The benefits of these campaigns are numerous.

1. *God is glorified through the preaching and teaching of His Word (Mark 16:15).*

2. *The lost are given personal invitations to hear the Gospel proclaimed, and have an opportunity for a personal study of the Word of God.*

3. *The Lord's church is promoted in the area. Residents learn about the Lord's church, and realize we are "open for business."*

4. *The local congregation pulls together and works in a united effort, by preparing meals for the workers, and providing places for the workers to stay during the campaign, and they are invited and encouraged to participate in the door knocking effort.*

5. *The local congregation is greatly edified by hosting a campaign.*

As in all of our Christian efforts, we give God the glory. It is by His good providence and blessings that we are allowed to work in His great kingdom. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:20-21). BB

(We extend a special thanks to brother Bland who does all the work in coordinating our campaign efforts, and who does so in such a splendid way. BL)